

October 27, 2002

TO: Paul Dabbs pdabbs@water.ca.gov
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Dear Paul:

The October 3 Meeting Highlights do not reflect the expressed concern that the regional assessments are unlikely to add up to the overall need for water to meet basic 2030 statewide social needs. It also does not reflect that comparing the regional totals to Table 1 needs will still ignore needs that are not clearly included in Table 1. Refer to my 10/20 e-mail to Sarah Goldberg (copy attached).

The AC has been so focused on the process for estimating the future water needs listed on Table 1 that it has given very little thought to how these needs and the unlisted needs will be met. We must come to grips with this because it will not be easy. Furthermore, measures to increase water supply that are difficult to justify at today's water costs will probably not seem expensive when water values rise as they surely will in the future. Neither CALFED nor the AC has yet made any assessment of the magnitude of the overall increase in water supply that will be needed in 2030 in California. Meeting this need will require a mix of everything from more recycling, more multiple use, reverse osmosis, coordinated operation of new surface and groundwater storage, etc. It can not be met by continuing to shift agricultural water resources by various means away from the production of food to satisfy other needs.

The AC should devote a day to addressing the measures that must add up to an adequate future water supply. When faced with the consequences of a severe shortage, the public will want an adequate water supply to be provided regardless of cost. Furthermore, if the public has to choose between protecting the environment and having an adequate food supply the choice will be for food.